

**The Gateway Pundit**  
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Speaker J. Michael Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4000

Monday December 4, 2023

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is James Hoft and I am the Publisher and Editor for the Gateway Pundit. Since 2004, we have provided conservative news, views, and commentary on national politics. I am currently the lead Plaintiff in Missouri v. Biden, a critical case involving the future of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as it relates to the government's official suppression of media outlets and dissenting views.

I am writing to you out of concern for the First Amendment. Our nation's freedoms rely on vibrant political discourse. That discourse is reliant on diverse and competing viewpoints sharing their perspectives, analyses, and interpretations with one another freely and without fear of consequence and suppression.

I believe that you and your Speakership, and the Republican majority that chose you as their leader, publicly professes those values. I note that your office website lists the "7 Principles of Conservatism" which strongly captures and expresses those values of free speech, individual freedom, limited government, due process, and ensuring that government is restrained and not unlimited.

In contrast to those values I am confronted with word from multiple offices that The Gateway Pundit, found at [www.thegatewaypundit.com](http://www.thegatewaypundit.com), is being banned and suppressed by the United States Congress.

I am sure I do not need to cite the First Amendment's basic, literal, text which states that "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press" - this rule is a direct abridgment of the freedom of the Gateway Pundit's modern press.

As well, I would like to bring your attention to the part of Amendment that specifically allows the people "...to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

That section is a preservation of political speech and communication with Congress. That section is meant to prevent the ability for the people to reach their elected representatives with problems and concerns that need remedy. I realize that the lawless Biden Administration has made a mockery of these rights by prosecuting and imprisoning protesters from January 6th and through the endless harassment of the 2020 Trump Electors, but Biden's trampling of the Constitution should not set a precedent it should serve as a historical outrage.

It is worth noting that I doubt you are personally approving or banning individual media sites from review across the Capitol complex. I am sure that high level members of your staff are also not picking and choosing which views, which media sites, have access at all to the thousands of lawmakers and staff at the Capitol.

But someone is and that person is very unconcerned with the First Amendment and the protections of the Constitution.

Whoever is choosing to deplatform and suppress conservative media sites is clearly unconcerned with the Constitutional violations they are committing every day.

And more concernedly is that I wonder if these processes have been automated and outsourced by federal bureaucrats who are trying to impose a form of tyranny by algorithm where a left-wing agenda is automated in such a way that everyone can evade responsibility and accountability for the end results of censorship and oppression.

This is what we are finding in the *Missouri v. Biden* case: the government was excited to use third parties to process millions of social media posts, and then when necessary to use corrupt officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice to pressure companies to suppress these dissenting political views shared by half of the country.

There is a long history of Congressional mishandling of the First Amendment. In 1798 Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts motivated, in part, at specifically shutting down publications that the reigning elites disliked, notably the *Philadelphia Aurora* published by Benjamin Franklin Bache, Benjamin Franklin's grandson. Bache was prosecuted for criticizing the government as 'seditious libel' and suffered threats, attacks, and imprisonment as a result. The Sedition Acts have never been repealed.

The neglect of expanding and asserting the First Amendment is leading to prosecutions and persecutions of political dissidents. The failure to remedy these past violations is leading to small

encroachments and restrictions pushed by forces hostile to the public's cherished Constitutional rights. In this way even things that might be dismissed as minor or minimal infringements of free speech, things that might seem as mistakes or confusions, are part of a larger story and pattern that slowly whittles away and grinds down the public's right to information, right to communicate with Congress, and for the exchange of information between the public and Congress.

I would hope this would lead you to action. I am hopeful that your Speakership can help the people who are being daily attacked and oppressed by the Biden administration, the Deep State, and the various fellow travelers for these enemies of the Constitution.

Specifically, I would hope that, and respectfully petition you:

- 1) Conduct a review and policy is put in place for this suppression of online media sources ends.
- 2) I would ask that the staff in a position to make decisions like this receive training on the Constitution from a trusted organization that cares about the full and true meaning of the First Amendment.
- 3) I would encourage you to study a full review of any and all rules and regulations that abridge the rights to a free press and act to remove any such restrictions.
- 4) And most importantly, I would ask you to continue acting to resist the Biden administration's unconstitutional actions as revealed in the *Missouri v. Biden* litigation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James Hoft  
Publisher  
The Gateway Pundit

cc:

Chairman Bryan Stihl  
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